



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES  
DIRECTOR

August 28, 2007

Dear Grouse and Woodcock Cooperator:

Another grouse and woodcock hunting season will soon be upon us, and it is time to begin thinking about those treasured days afield. The upcoming ruffed grouse hunting season looks promising as we approach the midway point of the 10-year grouse population cycle. It is expected that the population will be near the high point around 2010. For woodcock hunting this fall, I anticipate woodcock numbers to be similar to last year. The best grouse and woodcock hunting opportunities will continue to be in areas of young early forest successional habitat.

To help keep you informed about hunter cooperator effort, I have included maps showing flush rates for grouse and woodcock from 2006.

To assist us in gathering information about ruffed grouse population trends, I have included a cooperator early and regular season report form for you to complete. The early season report should be returned by September 24. A summary of this information will be made available online at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) as soon as possible. If you do not have access to the Internet you can request a copy by calling the Wildlife Division office (517-373-1263). Regular season reports should be returned to us by January 5. Please take a moment to complete the forms as you pursue upland game birds this fall.

In the past, we have also conducted spring drumming grouse surveys to monitor grouse populations shifts. This year, we were unable to conduct our spring drumming grouse surveys due to the budget restraints and travel restrictions placed on the Department of Natural Resources. Because of this lack of population trend information, your participation in the hunter cooperator survey becomes even more important than in the past.

Thank you for assisting with this survey. Your participation is important and helps us to continue monitoring the status of these important game birds.

This fall, get out and enjoy Michigan's great outdoors.

Sincerely,

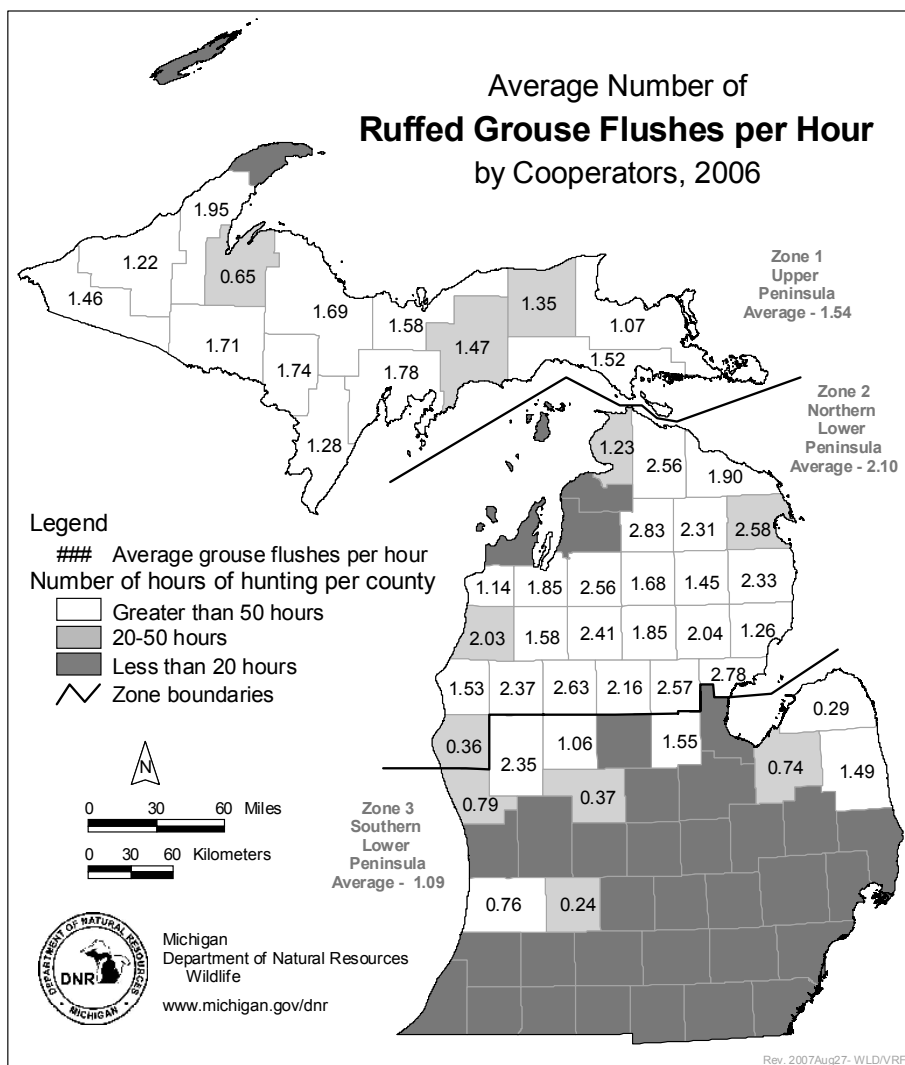
Al Stewart, Upland Game Bird Specialist  
Wildlife Division  
517-373-1263

Enclosures

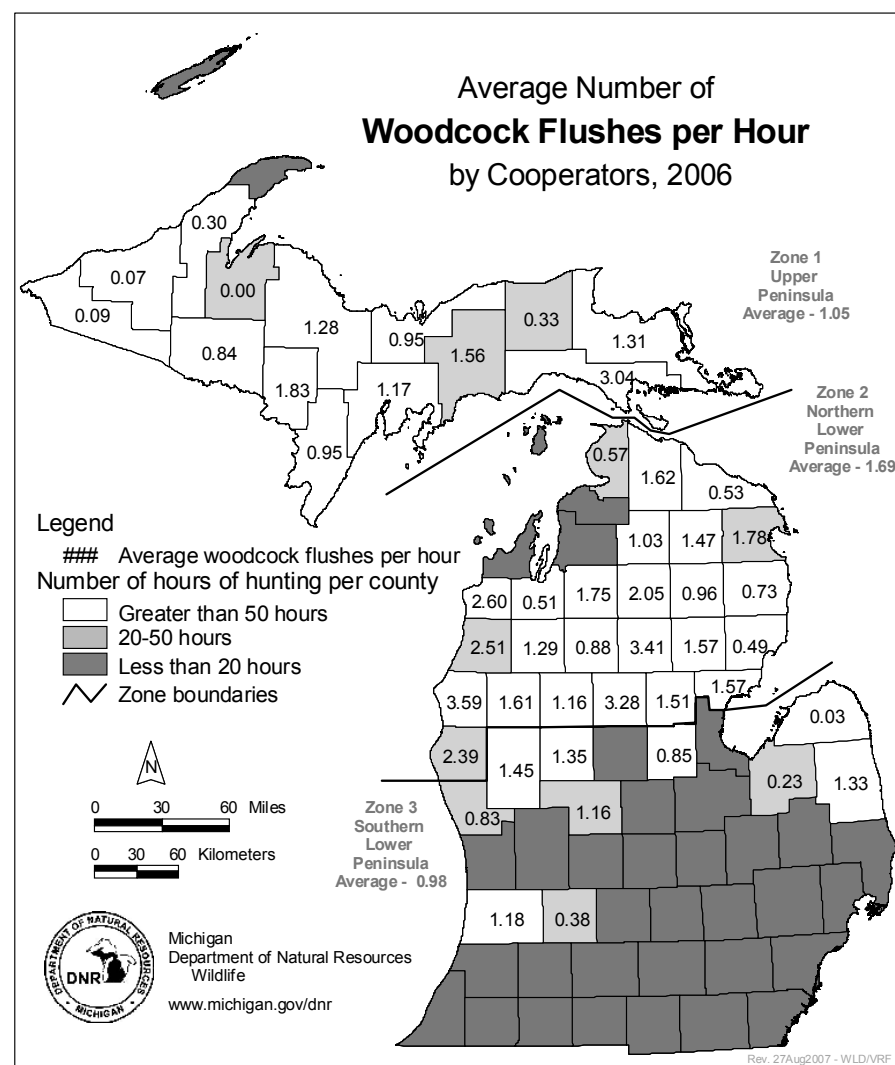
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STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING • P.O. BOX 30028 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7528  
[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) • (517) 373-2329

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Appendix A. Average ruffed grouse flushed per hour by cooperators, 2006.



Appendix B. Average American woodcock flushed per hour by cooperators, 2006.